

The White House

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.



JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY GUIDE





Welcome to the White House!

Our Nation has an exciting tradition of exploration dating back to the founding of our country, and visiting our National Parks is an important part of the American experience.

Since 1933, the White House has been a part of the park system, and welcomes millions of visitors each year.

In the following pages, you will learn interesting facts and fascinating stories about the White House, and start your adventure as a Junior Ranger. By studying the history of our National Parks, uncovering unique treasures, and sharing information with friends and family, Junior Rangers help to preserve and protect our cherished lands.

No matter where your travels as a Junior Ranger take you, I hope you continue to explore our National Parks, and approach your life with a spirit of discovery as you grow.

Michelle Obama

Explore, Learn, Protect Be a Junior Ranger!



Welcome to the White House Junior Ranger Program. In these pages, you will learn about the amazing history of this home, workplace, and museum. For over two hundred years, the White House has stood as a symbol of the presidency, the United States government, and the American people. Be a part of that history as you *explore*, *learn*, and *protect*.

How to Become a White House Junior Ranger

It's as easy as



First, follow along with the activities in the booklet during your tour of the White House. (*In the White House: pages 3–12*)



After your tour, do as many of the follow-up activities as you have time to do. (*Activities to Do After Your Tour: pages 13–22*)



Finally, you can **either** present your booklet to a ranger at the White House Visitor Center (*directions on page 23*) to be sworn in as an official Junior Ranger and receive your badge and certificate, **or** you can mail your activity booklet and blank certificate to: Junior Ranger Program, President's Park, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20242, and we'll send your signed Junior Ranger certificate, activity booklet and badge to you.

What is a National Park Service Junior Ranger?

Junior Rangers are important people because they help park rangers protect and take care of the resources of the National Parks. This is a big job because there are almost 400 National Parks in the United States! Junior Rangers also learn about the buildings, objects, plants, animals and history of the National Parks, and share that knowledge with their friends and families.

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White House Specifications



Dimensions:

Length: 168 feet

Width: 85½ feet (residence)
152 feet (with porticos)

Height: overall: south 70 feet; north 60 feet 4 in.
facade: south 60 feet; north 50 feet 4 in.

Area (6 floors): just under 100,000 square feet

Rooms: 132 total, including

15 bedrooms	35 restrooms
1 medical clinic	1 dental office
5 kitchens	2 pantries
4 dining rooms: State, Family, President's, Staff	

Other Features:

26 fireplaces	12 chimneys
147 windows	412 doors
3 elevators	69 closets
2 sidewalk lifts	

Recreational Facilities:

Indoors: bowling alley, 46-seat movie theater

Outdoors: swimming pool, tennis court, putting green, Children's Garden, Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, Rose Garden, Kitchen Garden, swing set, and basketball court

Office of the Curator

Hello friends! I'm President Gerald Ford.
Did you know... before I became the 38th president, I was a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park? Watch for other Fun Facts about the White House throughout this book.





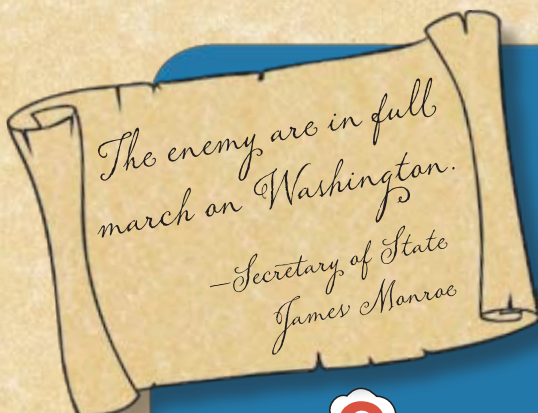
The Story of the White House

1792: James Hoban begins construction on the White House, after being selected by George Washington in a design competition.

1800: President John Adams and his wife First Lady Abigail Adams become the first official residents of the White House.

1814: British troops burn the White House during the War of 1812.

1817: James Hoban completes the reconstruction of the White House.



When President James Madison received this message, he rushed to join the troops while the city was being evacuated. First Lady Dolley Madison remained at the White House packing state papers, silverware, and other valuables. At the last minute she realized she could not leave the full-length Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington behind, so she had her staff break the frame and remove the canvas. Once it was added to a cart, they were off!



Look around at all the treasures surrounding you. What would **you** save if the White House were being evacuated **today**?



1846: First known photograph is taken of the White House.

1902: President Theodore Roosevelt's family is so large that he has to move the offices out of the residence, and builds the West Wing as a 'temporary' office building.

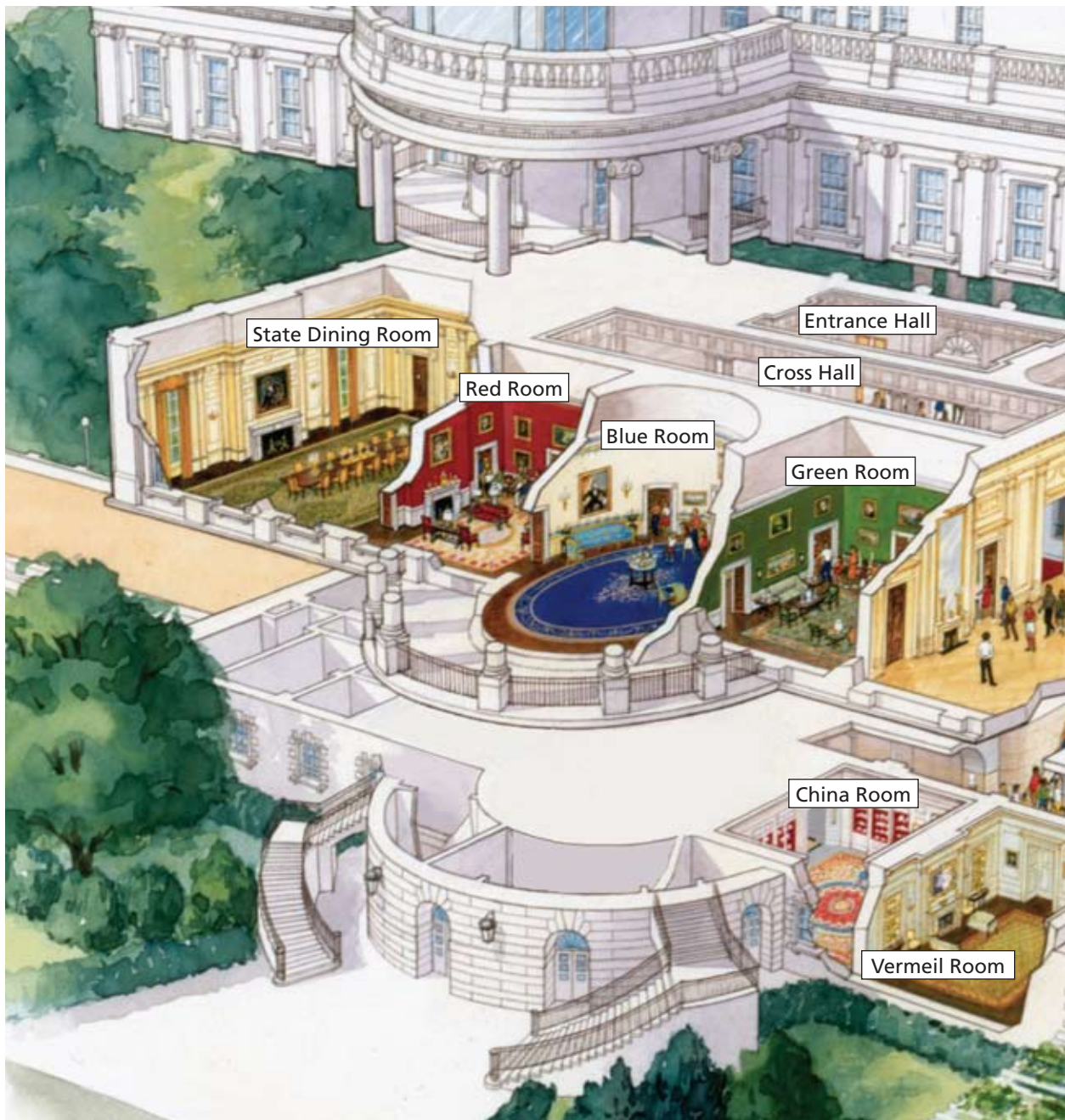


1948–1952: President Harry Truman renovates the interior of the White House and adds two underground levels.

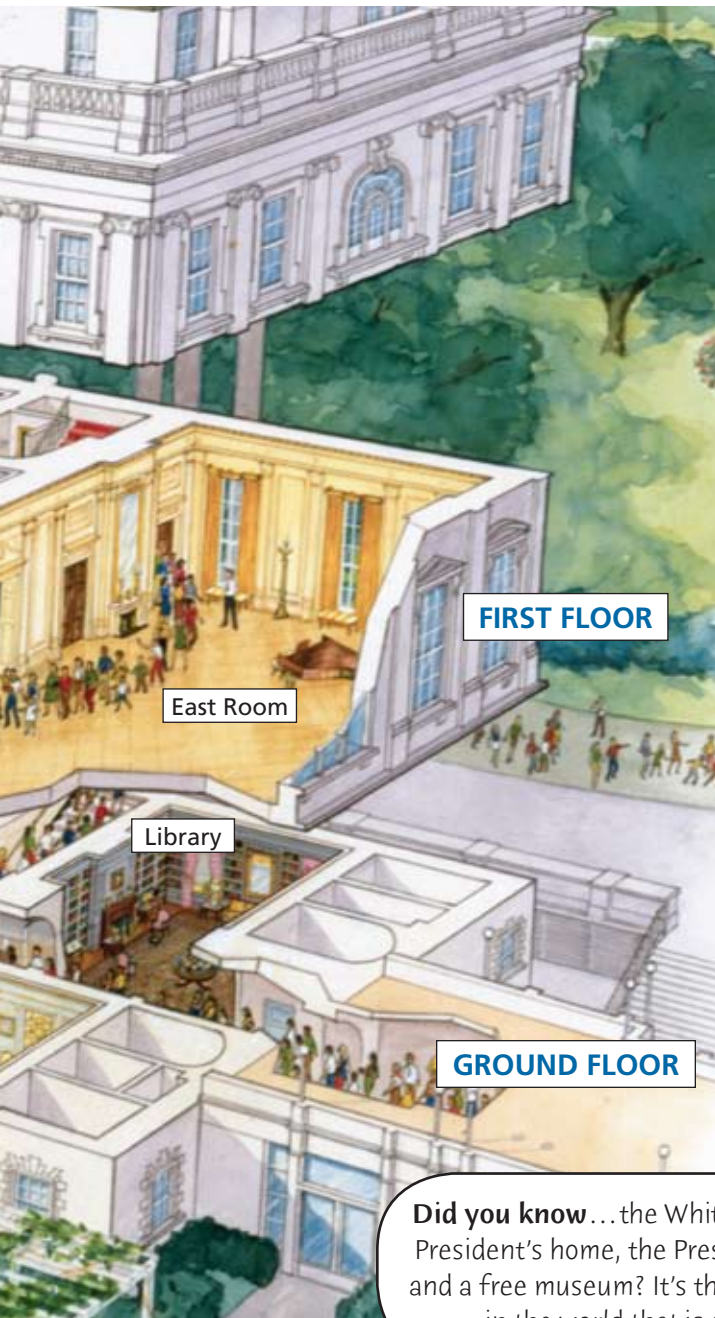
2000: The White House celebrates the 200th anniversary of its first occupancy.



Did you know... President Benjamin Harrison had electric wiring added to the White House, but was so afraid of his new electric lights that he had an electrician turn them on and off for him?



Visiting the White House



Did you know... the White House is the President's home, the President's office, and a free museum? It's the only building in the world that is all three!



Go bird watching *inside* the White House!

Just as the White House is a symbol of leadership, the American eagle is a symbol of national strength and pride. Use your **eagle eyes** to see how many eagles you can find on paintings, furniture, and other places as you tour the White House.



The Ground Floor

The spaces on this ground floor have had many uses over the years. At various times you might have seen a small fire engine for James Monroe, a rowboat for John Quincy Adams, heating furnaces, kitchen stoves, laundry tubs, White House cooks, or the children of Ulysses S. Grant playing on a rainy day.



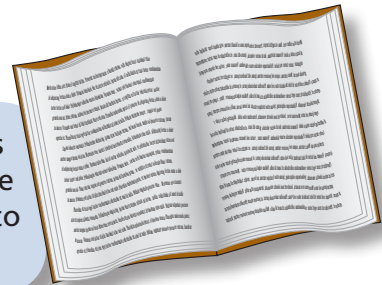
The Library

The White House Library has approximately 2,700 books written by American authors or about American subjects. These shelves are filled with history, science, biography and fiction. The library books can be checked out by the first family. The first library in the White House was established by First Lady Abigail Fillmore, who was also a teacher.

The Library also has portraits of Native American leaders who visited the White House in 1822.



What do you like to read about? What is your favorite book? If you were living in the White House, what book would **you** want to have in this library?



Did you know ... when my father Theodore Roosevelt was president, our whole family loved reading and we always had a book or magazine with us? We liked to stretch out on the floor, flat on our stomachs, reading our books.



The Vermeil Room

This room used to be a ladies' coat room, but is now a gallery for vermeil and first ladies' portraits. Vermeil is a French word that is pronounced “vehr-may.” They are silver dishes coated with a thin layer of gold. The White House has the second largest collection in the world (1,575 pieces), received as a gift in 1958.



Are you using
your eagle eyes?

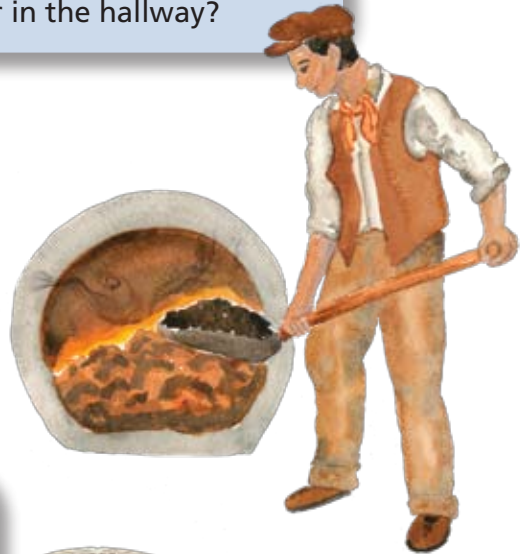


Can you name *one* first lady whose portrait you see in this room or in the hallway?

The China Room

This room once housed a “fireman,” but he didn’t put out fires — he kept one burning! It was his job to manage the White House furnace.

First Lady Edith Wilson was the first to display china in this room in 1917. Many presidents have chosen custom designed china to use for official entertaining. A number of those patterns are displayed here.



Which of these pieces of White House china do you like best? If *you* were the President of the United States, how would you decorate your china?



President Hayes



President Clinton



President Lincoln

The State Floor

The East Room

This is the largest room in the White House, and was designed to be a public audience chamber. When First Lady Abigail Adams moved into the White House in 1800, the East Room was still unfinished and was used to hang laundry. It has been the setting for weddings, performances, and many other historic events.



True or False? Which of the following statements about the East Room do you think are true? (Answers on pg. 24)

1. Five presidents' daughters have been married in the East Room.
2. Elvis Presley once performed for President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the East Room.
3. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and witnessed by Martin Luther King, Jr. in the East Room.
4. Big Bird, Oscar the Grouch and Bert & Ernie performed in the East Room during a children's diplomatic party in 1978.



Can you find the famous portrait of George Washington that First Lady Dolley Madison saved?



The Green Room

This room, which is now furnished as a parlor and used for receptions, served as President Thomas Jefferson's dining room. The President and First Lady sometimes have meetings here, and guests still might enjoy an informal lunch, dinner, or tea served in this room today.



Can you find this silver coffee urn, owned by John and Abigail Adams?





The Blue Room

Just like the president's office, the Blue Room is oval-shaped. Traditionally a reception room, a candlelit Blue Room was the setting for Grover Cleveland's marriage to Frances Folsom in June 1886. He was the only president to marry in the White House.



*Are you using
your eagle eyes?*



Can you find this portrait of President William Howard Taft? Did you know in 1910 he was the first president to throw the first pitch of the baseball season? Who is **your** favorite baseball team?



The Red Room

The Red Room has been used as a music room, a breakfast room, a first lady's sitting room or parlor, and a setting for small dinners and receptions.



Remember First Lady Dolley Madison who saved President George Washington's portrait when the White House burned? She also served ice cream at receptions in the Red Room. Can you find this portrait of her?



Did you know... the chandelier in the Blue Room has to be taken down every year when the White House Christmas tree is placed there? The ceiling is high enough for an 18-foot tree!

The State Dining Room

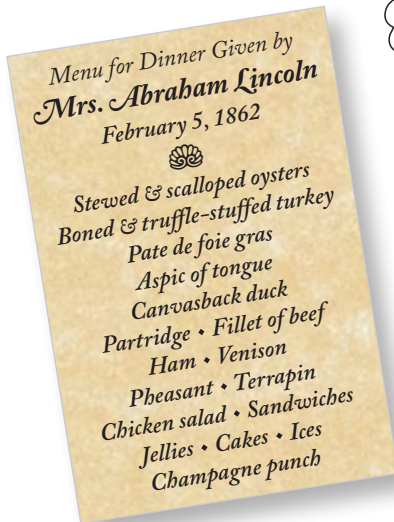
The State Dining Room is used for official state dinners, and can seat up to 140 people. President Jefferson used part of this space as his office, but in 1902 an interior wall was knocked down to make the large room you see today.



Are you using
your eagle eyes?



What would **you** serve to your guests if you were the President? And whom would **you** invite as your guest of honor?



John Adams, our second president, was actually the first president to live in the White House. On his second night there, he wrote a letter to his wife Abigail which included a line that was later carved into the mantel of the fireplace.



I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof.

The Entrance Hall and Cross Hall

This is the White House's grand reception area.

There have been many changes in 200 years, but it is still used for receptions and entertaining. A grand staircase was first added in Theodore Roosevelt's presidency. Today, portraits of recent presidents hang here.

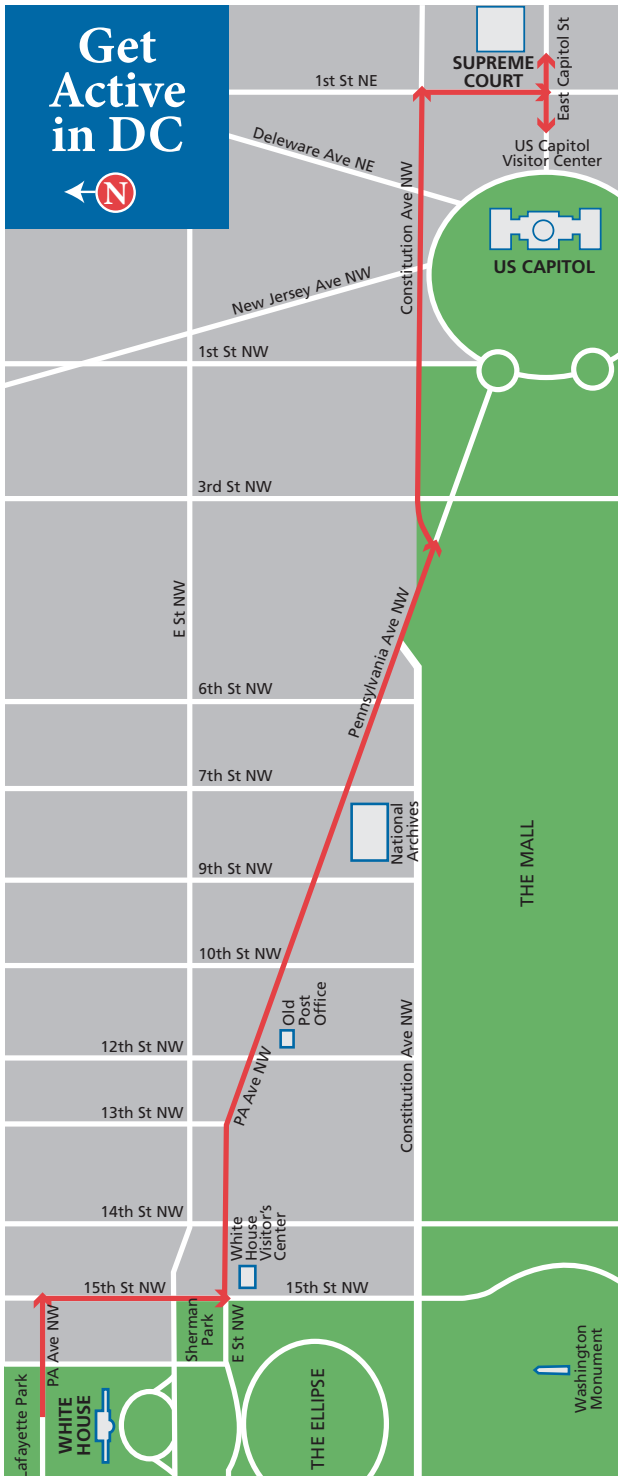


Can you find the Steinway piano given to the White House in 1938?

Many presidents and famous musicians, including Richard Nixon and Stevie Wonder, have played it. If you were having a party at the White House, whom would you like to play here?

Did you know ... the North Entrance door used to be open to the public? In 1837 President Andrew Jackson invited the public in to share a giant wedge of cheese he had been given. It was 4 feet round, 2 feet thick, and weighed 1,400 pounds!





Thanks for touring the White House!

Now that you have left the White House, you can extend your visit by going to the White House Visitors Center at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, and/or by doing some of the following activities.

Get Active!

You have just seen where the First Family lives. Now explore the city they live in! Washington, DC is a great city for walking, with lots of museums and monuments close to each other. You might want to start by taking a walk around **President's Park**, which includes Lafayette Park, the Ellipse, and Sherman Park.

Feeling ambitious? Now that you've visited the home of the President, who is in charge of the executive branch of government, go see the other two branches of government by taking a walk to the Capitol, the seat of the legislative branch, and the Supreme Court, the seat of the judicial branch. This route is the same route that the president follows after inauguration — but in reverse. *(This is a 2-mile walk, with many possible stops along the way, including the White House Visitor Center and the US Capitol Visitor Center at East Capitol & 1st St. NE.)*



Stay Active!

Where do you like to explore by your home? Do you know where your nearest playground is? Go to www.letsmove.gov/wheretogo.php and find out!

Champions for Change

Unlike the president, the first lady's duties and responsibilities are not outlined in the Constitution of the United States. This provides a unique opportunity for each first lady to define her role. Which first lady is described in each statement below?

Write the matching number of each first lady's cause in the circle next to her picture.



Barbara Bush
1989–1993



Jacqueline Kennedy
1961–1963



Eleanor Roosevelt
1933–1945



Abigail Fillmore
1850–1853



Helen "Nellie" Taft
1909–1913



Nancy Reagan
1981–1989

Who Am I?

1. This first lady taught school and established the White House Library in 1851.
2. The wife of our 40th president campaigned in the 1980s to "Just Say No" to drugs.
3. The 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote was ratified in 1920. A decade earlier, she was the first first lady to support women's suffrage.
4. This first lady co-authored a book with her dog, titled *Millie's Book* (1990), and worked to promote literacy.
5. Living in the White House during World War II, this first lady transformed the office, holding press conferences, traveling widely, giving lectures and radio broadcasts, and writing her own daily opinion column in a newspaper.
6. In the early 1960s, this first lady's efforts brought national attention to the need of preserving and restoring the art and furnishings of the historic White House.

Did you know... my husband, President Harry Truman, used to introduce me as "the Boss," and our daughter Margaret as "the Boss's Boss?"



★ White House Word Search ★

M	N	Y	L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	W	Y	C
O	E	E	D	A	O	O	R	A	D	H	B	R
O	O	K	R	A	W	G	P	A	B	E	G	O
R	S	R	O	N	L	H	R	U	A	F	G	S
A	H	U	W	H	I	T	E	H	O	U	S	E
N	S	T	I	N	N	A	S	H	I	N	N	G
I	N	I	L	A	G	I	I	R	A	H	T	A
H	D	A	B	L	A	H	D	R	I	Y	R	R
C	G	O	E	H	L	A	E	T	R	F	L	D
E	H	O	A	I	L	R	N	E	E	N	W	E
G	N	I	D	D	E	W	T	G	R	K	E	N
O	E	L	A	T	Y	D	R	N	E	N	I	Y
T	A	F	G	W	A	E	W	R	A	E	D	R

Did you know... I was the first president to have a beard?



Circle the following words hidden in the word search. Remember to search up and down, across, diagonally, forwards and backwards.

White House
Rose Garden
Wedding
China Room

President
First Lady
Hoban
Turkey

Eagle
Library
Art
Bowling Alley

EXPRESS YOURSELF!

Now that you have seen inside and outside, as well as the front and back of the President's house, you know that the White House looks different from every side. In the space below, record your observations, feelings and experiences from your visit to the White House. Use your imagination and draw a picture, write a poem, describe a small moment, or make a list of all the animals you saw in furniture, statues and pictures!



North side of the White House, (2003–Current series)



South side of the White House, (1928)

Fur and Scales

Through the years many beloved pets and animals have lived in the White House and roamed its grounds. Look at the statements below and match the animal they describe with the pictures below. You just might be surprised by some of the answers!

What Am I?

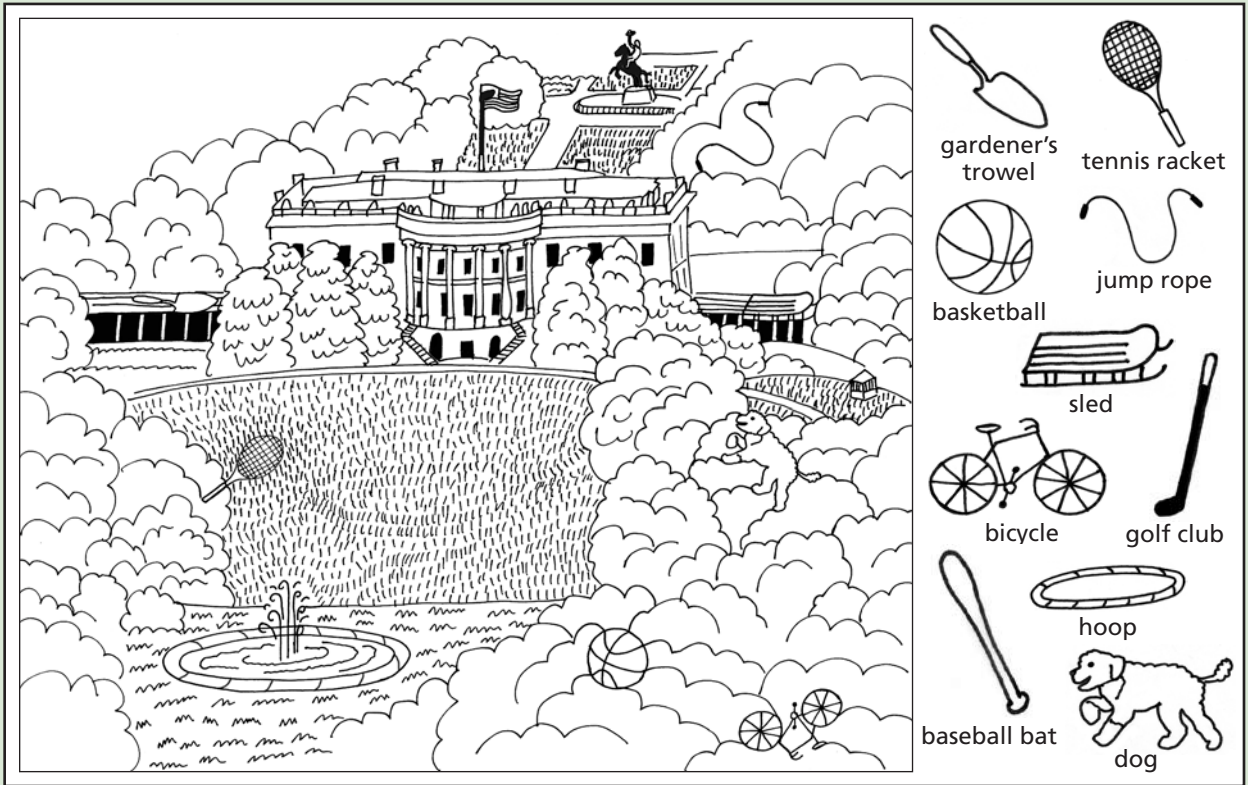
1. This “living dinosaur” roamed the White House during President John Quincy Adams’ term.
2. Caroline Kennedy might have been humming an American classic when she came up with her pet’s name, “Yankee Doodle went to town, a-riding on a _____, stuck a feather in his cap and called it, Macaroni!”
3. Rebecca was the name for this “masked bandit of the woods” who was the companion of First Lady Grace Coolidge.
4. President Abraham Lincoln was the first to grant this animal a pardon, just before he was to be the main course at the holiday feast. His son Tad then adopted the animal and named him Jack.



Did you know... when he lived in the White House, President Thomas Jefferson’s favorite pet was his mockingbird named Dick? He also had two bear cubs, given to him by the explorers Lewis and Clark.

Fitness and Fun with the First Family

Throughout its history, the White House South Lawn has served as a yard for first families where they have enjoyed all kinds of recreational activities. In this picture of the South Lawn, find and circle the following small pictures of equipment real first families have used there.



Did you know... when I moved into the White House with my parents, President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter, I was in 3rd grade? I missed my home in Georgia, but my father designed a treehouse in the backyard of the White House where I loved to play.

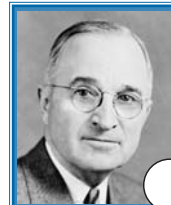


Technology Firsts at the White House

A lot of progress has been made in technology since President John Adams first moved into the White House in 1800.

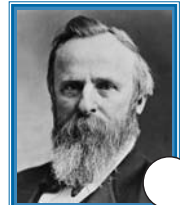
Look at the list below of technological objects and innovations, with the date they were first installed at the White House. Then match each one with the president who was in the White House at that time. Write the number of the matching technology in the circle next to the president's picture.

1. Water closet (indoor toilet): 1801
2. Hot and cold running water: 1853
3. Telephone: 1877
4. Electric lights: 1891
5. Television: 1947
6. Solar Energy: 1979



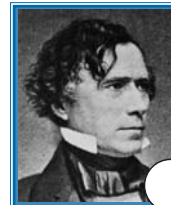
Harry
Truman

1945–1953



Rutherford
B. Hayes

1877–1881



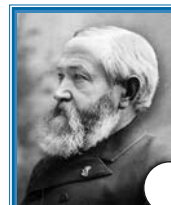
Franklin
Pierce

1853–1857



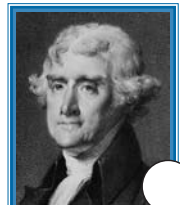
Jimmy
Carter

1977–1981



Benjamin
Harrison

1889–1893



Thomas
Jefferson

1801–1809



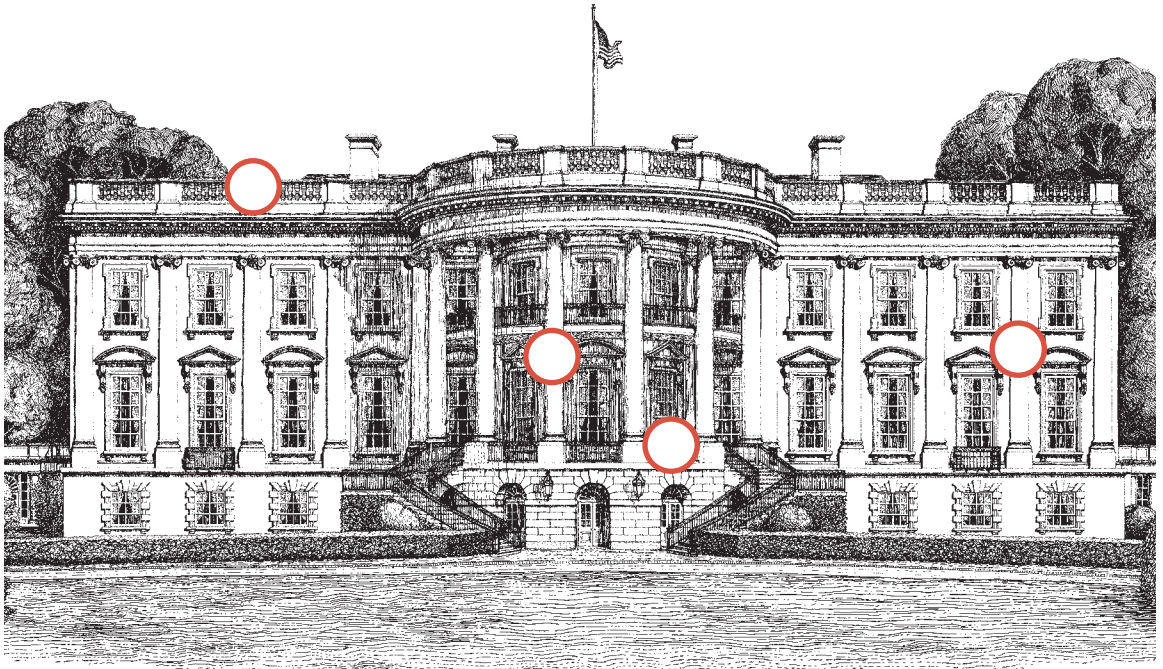
Did you know... the first telephone number for the White House was 1?

THE ABC'S OF ARCHITECTURE

on the South Side of the White House

What style of architecture *is* the White House? Built between 1792 and 1800, the White House reflects the preferences of our first president, George Washington. Designed by Irish-born architect James Hoban, it is a grand mansion in the *neo-classical Georgian style* with details that echo *classical Greek Ionic architecture*.

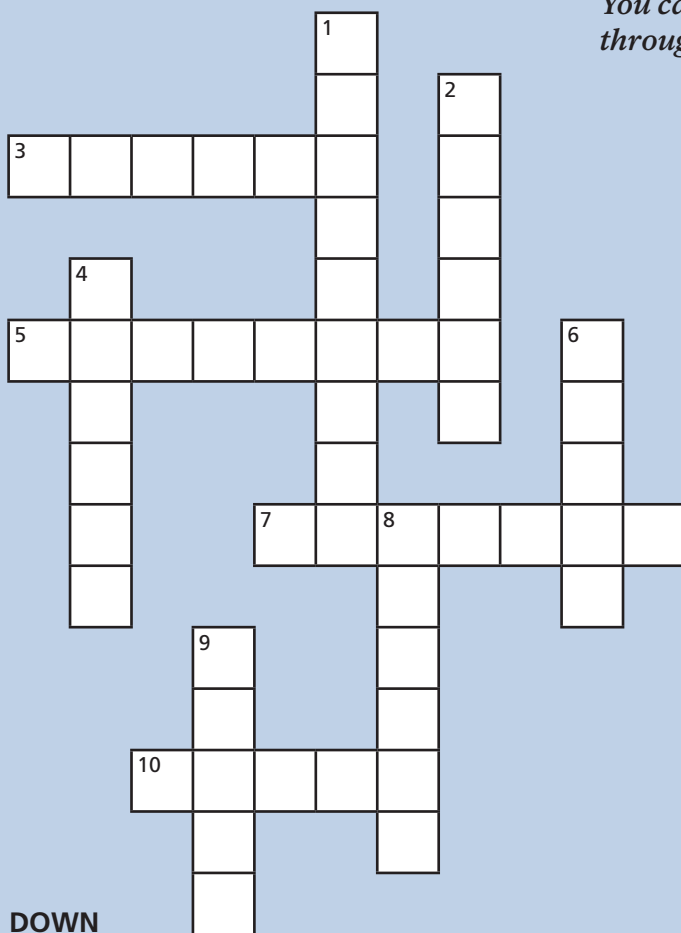
While it has changed a lot in the past 200 years, George Washington would still recognize his chosen design. Look closely at the drawing below of the south side of the White House, which can be seen from the Ellipse. See if you can find the following architectural elements, and write the letter of each element on the proper place in the picture.



- A. Balustrade: a rail and row of posts that support it.
- B. Column: a vertical support that is usually cylindrical.
- C. Window Hood: horizontal, decorative molding above a window
- D. Portico: a walkway or porch supported by columns.

FIRST FAMILY PUZZLE

You can find all the answers to this puzzle throughout the pages of this guide book.



ACROSS

- 3 President Andrew Jackson shared a huge wedge of this in 1837.
- 5 A pony kept at the White House for Caroline Kennedy.
- 7 The Cleverlands are the only first couple to have this ceremony performed in the White House.
- 10 This is a symbol of national strength and pride, and you can spot lots of them in the White House.

DOWN

- 1 Amy Carter loved to play in this _____ in her “backyard” when she lived at the White House.
- 2 This pooch helped First Lady Barbara Bush write a book.
- 4 Before Gerald Ford became president, he held this job for a summer at Yellowstone National Park.
- 6 You might use it every day, but the White House didn’t have one of these until 1877.
- 8 This first lady saved a famous portrait of George Washington when the White House burned in 1814.
- 9 They love honey, and Thomas Jefferson had two of them when he was president.

Arrowhead Activity

National Parks are managed by the National Park Service, which is part of the federal government. But who owns the national parks? All Americans, even *you*! As a Junior Ranger, you have an important responsibility to help take care of your national parks.

National park sites are located throughout the United States, including in the middle of our nation’s capital! The entire park system includes over 80 million acres of land. Individual sites come in all shapes and sizes, such as national parks, monuments, memorials, battlefields, historic sites, recreation areas, rivers, lakeshores, seashores, scenic trails, preserves, military parks, and parkways.



All of our national parks have one thing in common, though; they are set aside “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

The National Park Service arrowhead is a symbol of *stewardship* — it reminds us of the reasons we protect park resources for the future.

Arrowhead Activities

Can you find these items in the arrowhead above?

--	--	--	--	--

Draw a line to match each part of the Arrowhead with what it stands for.	1. Arrowhead	A. Wildlife
	2. National Park Service	B. Vegetation
	3. Mountain	C. U.S. Government Agency
	4. Sequoia Tree and Grass	D. History and Archaeology
	5. Lake	E. Land Formations
	6. Bison	F. Clean Water

Suggested At-Home Activity: Design your own arrowhead for the White House. What do *you* think should be represented?

Want to Learn More?

Junior Ranger Programs

Are you interested in exploring? Do you like art, science, history or nature? How about animals, sailing ships, dinosaurs or trains? Would you like to learn more about the national parks that belong to *you*? Find out more about National Park Service Junior Ranger programs at: www.nps.gov/learn

WebRanger Programs

As a WebRanger you will have one important job: to have fun while learning new things. You will solve mysteries and puzzles, play games, take part in stories, and gather secret works while exploring some of the greatest places on earth! Find out more about National Park Service WebRanger programs at: www.nps.gov/webrangers

Contact

President's Park (White House)
c/o Junior Ranger Program
Room 344
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242
(202) 208-1631
www.nps.gov/whho

The White House

If you want to learn more about the history of this national treasure or current events in today's White House, start at these great sites:

www.whitehouse.gov

www.whitehousehistory.org

This Junior Ranger Booklet is made possible through the generosity of the White House Historical Association, a private, non-profit educational organization, and the National Park Service.

Directions from the White House to the White House Visitor's Center:

Once you exit the White House, immediately turn right on Pennsylvania Ave. Walk one block, past the Treasury Department, and turn right onto 15th St.

Continue south on 15th St. for about 4 blocks. When you reach E St., turn left and cross 15th St.

The Visitor's Center is on the corner of 15th and E St., in the Department of Commerce building, facing Pershing Park. Look for the blue awning with "White House Visitors Center" in white lettering.

Illustration Credits

OWH: Official White House Photo LC: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division NPS: National Park Service
WHHA: White House Historical Association WHHA-WH: White House Historical Association (White House Collection)

cover OWH by Chuck Kennedy (Bo at WH) **Inside cover** OWH by Joyce Boghosian (First Lady Michelle Obama) **Page 3** OWH by Paul Morse (WH, detail) **Page 4** WHHA (Washington inspects WH); WHHA (burning of WH) **Page 5** LC (WH, detail); LC (T. Roosevelt family, detail); Abbie Rowe, NPS (bulldozer in WH, detail); Clinton Presidential Library (WH celebrates bicentennial, detail) **Page 6-7** WHHA (cutaway view of WH, detail) **Page 7** Photograph by Erik Kvalsvik for WHHA (eagle carving) **Page 8** LC (Harrison's cook Dolly Johnson in kitchen); WHHA-WH (Pawnee Chief Petalesharro, detail) **Page 9** Photograph by Bruce White for WHHA (wine cooler); Photo by Will Brown, copyright WHHA (Hayes china, detail); WHHA (Clinton china, detail); Photo by Will Brown, copyright WHHA (Lincoln china, detail) **Page 10** WHHA (Adams hanging wash in WH, detail); WHHA-WH (Washington, detail); Photograph by Bruce White, Courtesy WHHA (tea & coffee urn) **Page 11** LC (Cleveland's marriage, detail); WHHA-WH (Taft, detail); WHHA-WH (Dolley Madison, detail) **Page 12** WHHA-WH (WH Prayer, detail) **Page 13** OWH by Chuck Kennedy (WH, detail) **Page 14** LC (first ladies) **Page 19** LC (presidents) **Page 20** WHHA (WH, detail) **Inside back cover** OWH by Chuck Kennedy (WH, detail)

Answers

True/False Game (pg. 10)

- 1. True; 2. False; 3. True;
- 4. False – it was just Big Bird

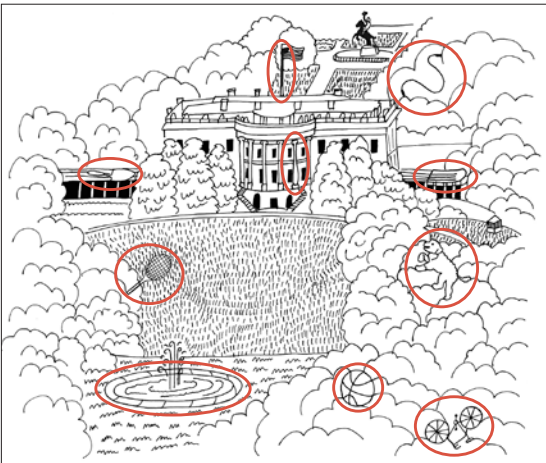
Champions for Change (pg. 14)

- 1. Abigail Fillmore
- 2. Nancy Reagan
- 3. Helen “Nellie” Taft
- 4. Barbara Bush
- 5. Eleanor Roosevelt
- 6. Jacqueline Kennedy

White House Word Search (pg. 15)



First Family Fitness (pg. 18)



Fur and Scales (pg. 17)

- 1. Alligator; 2. Pony; 3. Raccoon; 4. Turkey

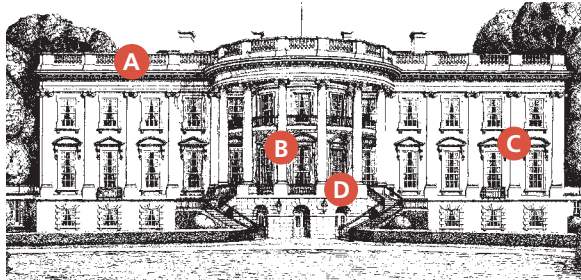
Technology Firsts at the White House (pg. 19)

- 1. Water closet = Thomas Jefferson
- 2. Hot and cold running water = Franklin Pierce
- 3. Telephone = Rutherford B. Hayes
- 4. Electric Lights = Benjamin Harrison
- 5. Television = Harry Truman
- 6. Solar Energy = Jimmy Carter

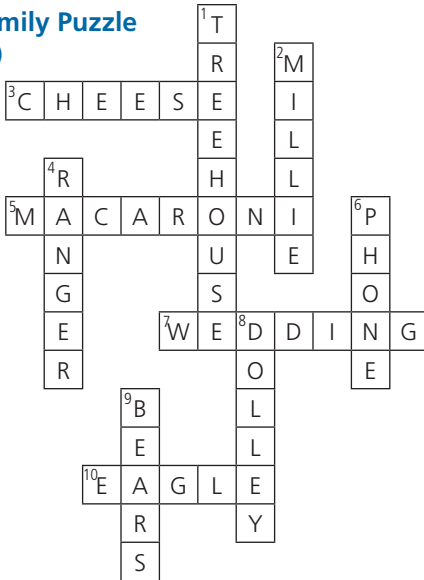
Arrowhead Activities (pg. 22)

- 1. Arrowhead = D. History and Archaeology
- 2. National Park Service = C. U.S. Government Agency
- 3. Mountain = E. Land Formations
- 4. Sequoia Tree and Grass = Vegetation
- 5. Lake = F. Clean Water
- 6. Bison = A. Wildlife

The ABC's of Architecture (pg. 20)



First Family Puzzle (pg. 21)





CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Great work!

JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE

I, _____, am proud to be a National Park Service Junior Ranger. I promise to appreciate, respect, and protect all National Parks. I also promise to continue learning about the landscape, plants, animals, and history of these special places. I will share what I learn with my friends and family.

Junior Ranger Signature

Ranger/Parent Signature



White House Passport Stamp
available at the White House Visitor Center

The White House

Junior Ranger Activity Guide



THE WHITE HOUSE

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